

## **ZAMBIA STARTS PREPARATIONS FOR EXTRAORDINARY MISSION MONTH OF OCTOBER 2019 (EMM OCT 2019).**

*By: Communication Officer PMS ZAMBIA*

Preparations to celebrate the Extraordinary Mission Month of October 2019 have kicked off in Lusaka today, December 18, 2018 with about 22 participants representing all of the dioceses in Zambia.

The arrangements have started with a meeting of Diocesan Pastoral Coordinators and Pontifical Mission Society (PMS) Directors in Lusaka at Kapingila house from December 18-19, 2018.

Speaking during the opening of the meeting, Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) Secretary General Fr. Cleophas Lungu said the declaration of the Extraordinary Mission Month of October 2019 should be a reminder to every Christian that the gift of faith received at baptism sends them on mission.

Making reference to the Zambian Bishops 2016 Pastoral Letter titled, *Go out to the whole world, proclaim the gospel to all creation-Mark 16:15*, he said the missionary calling of the Church is for all that are baptized, ordained and consecrated to be on mission.

Father Lungu said the Church in Zambia celebrate and appreciate the missionaries' work who brought the gift of faith, and with their enthusiasm they set out to places at the risk of diseases, places without roads and they lacked the language but did not mind.

He also said that the missionary work should not be left to the priests alone, but the laity too must be involved.

In his opening remarks, ZCCB National Pastoral Coordinator, Fr. Justin Matepa expressed his satisfaction with the representation of all the eleven dioceses.

“Your presence here in this meeting shows the importance the Catholic Bishops in Zambia attach to the Extraordinary Mission Month of October 2019,” Fr. Matepa noted.

And in the introductory remarks, the Pontifical Mission Societies national director spelled out the four dimensions to prepare for and live out the Extraordinary Mission Month of October 2019. Fr. Edwin Mulandu invited

all the participants to consider: the Personal encounter with Jesus Christ; the Witness of the saints and missionary martyrs; Biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological formation and Missionary charity as key aspects to guide the group in the deliberations during the preparation for the Extraordinary Mission Month of October 2019.

Zambia

Lusaka

21 December

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